

On page 12, after the last line, please add the following:

-- The invention has been described in detail with reference to preferred embodiments thereof. However, it will be appreciated that those skilled in the art, upon consideration of this disclosure, may make modifications and improvements within the spirit and scope of the invention. All references disclosed herein are incorporated by reference.--

After page 14, beginning on a new page, please add the following Abstract:

--The present invention relates to a method for screening compounds for activity in treating an osteoclast related bone disease using one or more chloride channels selected from the group consisting of CIC-3, CIC-6, CIC-7 and functional analogues thereof.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8 and add the following new claims 9-17:

9. (New) A method for screening a chemical compound for activity in the treatment, prevention or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises the following steps:
- providing a test cell comprising one or more chloride channels of the CIC family;
 - subjecting the test cell to the action of the channel compound; and
 - measuring the ability of the compound to block the selected chloride channels.
10. (New) The method according Claim 9, wherein the test cell comprises one or more chloride channels selected from the group consisting of CIC-3, CIC-6 and CIC-7 and functional analogues thereof having substantially equivalent activity to the native forms.

11. (New) The method according to any one of Claims 9 or 10, wherein the osteoclast related bone disease is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, osteopetrosis, or Paget's disease of bone.
12. (New) A drug development method, which comprises the identification of a compound by the method according to any one of the Claims 9 to 11.
13. (New) The use of a compound identified as a blocker of a chloride channel of the ClC family by the method according to any one of the Claims 9 to 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a product thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject.
14. (New) A method for the treatment, prevention, or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound identified as a blocker or a chloride channel of the ClC family by the method according to any one of the Claims 9 to 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a prodrug thereof.
15. (New) The use of a blocker of a chloride channel of the ClC family or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a prodrug thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject.
16. (New) The use of Claim 15, wherein the said blocker is a blocker of one or more channels ClC-3, ClC-6 and ClC-7 but does not block at least one of ClC-1, ClC-2, ClC-4, ClC-5, ClC-Ka and ClC-Kb.
17. (New) A method for the treatment, prevention, or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a blocker of a chloride channel of the ClC family or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a prodrug thereof.